

Dear Parent/Carer

HMS WEEKLY UPDATE 20

Respect. Engage. Aspire Awards

Each week, teachers nominate pupils for awards to celebrate those who have demonstrated our school values and to recognise the brilliant achievements of our pupils. The awards celebrate children who have shown great respect, who have engaged well in all aspects of school life and who have shown high aspiration during lessons and around school.



Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Hollie W Tessa H Hazel L Violet M Oliver S	Gwilym H D Rory N Jude D Thomas M William D	Antony M Jyacinth B Edward C Noah S	Jack R Jack D Dulcie M Maeve H D Emily H

House Point Totals

Below are this week's House Point totals as well as the **'Top 4' pupils in each year group this week**. P points are awarded for character value such as **resilience, respect, engagement and responsibility**. Well done to each and every one of them.

House Totals		Top 4 'P Points' in each year							
		Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
Aln	52,450	1	Jennifer V	1	Aurelia K	1	Zach D	1	Alistair Wi
Coquet	52,574	2	Adina C	2	Lara G	2	Sarah N	2	Alistair Wa
Tweed	51,365	3	Philippa U	3	Alfie L	3	Noah H	3	Ferdi U
Wansbeck	48,904	4	Martha G	4	Lily R-B	4	Hope B	4	Martha B

This half term's winning house will get an extra hour of social/play time on Thursday afternoon!

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: Graeme Atkins

Head of School: Liam Watters

Indoor Athletics Success!

Mr Scott had a great day with a brilliant team of HMS athletes at the indoor competition in Blyth yesterday. The whole team represented HMS with an outstanding attitude and approach. Team spirit, determination and positivity shone through loud and clear! Year 7 girls and Year 8 boys finished in 5th place overall. Year 8 girls finished in 2nd place overall - huge congratulations to everyone involved.



KS3 French Spelling Bee



On Wednesday, KS3 pupils took part in the Hexham Partnership Spelling Bee at Corbridge Middle for the coveted title of Spelling Bee champions. Pupils had to learn the French words then spell them out using the French alphabet, whilst being watched by their peers. I am delighted to inform that our Year 7 team were victorious. The first time that HMS has won the Spelling Bee competition. All pupils were fantastic representatives of Hexham Middle School. Well done to all who took part!

Lunar New Year Banquet

Wow – what an amazing lunch we enjoyed today to celebrate Lunar New Year! Huge thank you to Mrs Satow and her hardworking team who prepared a fabulous banquet for the whole school to enjoy. The children loved trying the different options including our homemade sweet and sour sauce! What a special treat! We are looking forward to the next themed lunch!



NSPCC Number Day 2024

Miss Storey has the results of last week's 'Number Day Challenge'. Well done to all of our pupils for engaging so well in the 'Number Hunt' and for having great conversations about numbers and their properties.

	Best form group score	Top Scorer	Best Effort
Year 5	5ZSC	Leo B	Alec W-W
Year 6	6JJO	Ella L	Callie T
Year 7	7SFO	Sophie S	Connie R
Year 8	8BLA	Libby P	Olivia L

Attendance – top 3!

1	2	3
6-YTA	8-IBO, 7-SFO, 5-JNI	5-EKI, 8-IHO

Head of Key Stage Updates

KS2 Updates from Miss Liddle and Mrs Downes	KS3 Updates from Mr Scott and Miss Lamont
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to Effie, Kirstie, Anna and Joanna for a fantastic addition to our Year 6 assembly this week - your presentation on Up Helly Aa was very informative and exceptionally well-presented! I am proud to have such confident, engaged pupils in our school. • Similarly, thank you to Su and Sadie for their wonderful presentation on Lunar New Year - our Year 5 pupils really enjoyed finding out what their 'Tet' animals were and seeing some pictures of Vietnamese traditions. • Thank you to all who were able to come to the Ford Castle Information Evening this week. The presentation and packing list will be sent out shortly - please keep an eye out for these and don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Thursday, 21 KS3 pupils competed at the Northumberland County Indoor Athletics Finals at Blyth. Following qualifying, our Y7 girls, Y8 girls and Y8 boys' teams were selected to represent Tynedale at the competition. The pupils performed brilliantly on the day, excellent effort and amazing attitudes. All pupils involved were an absolute delight! A real credit to the HMS - I know I may be biased... but we really do have the best pupils! We left the finals with two 5th place finishes, but our Y8 girls stole the show and secured 2nd place and the silver medal. Well done to all involved. • Year 8 Hoodies.... Next week signals the half-way point of the year. We are pleased to announce that the HMS Leavers' Hoodies will soon be available to order. Keep an eye out for the ordering information. • A little request from me. We would love to celebrate the successes of our pupils. Please email any extra-curricular achievements, success stories from outside of school/weekends to the HMS Admin email - please direct the email to your child's form tutor. Pictures are always appreciated... I love celebrating these during our weekly celebration assembly.

Vacancies at the Hadrian Learning Trust

We currently have a number of support staff vacancies at HLT. These include a Science Technician, Multimedia/Music Technician, Curriculum Admin Support as well as other roles.



All our positions are on our website and Facebook sites. We would welcome any support with promoting these roles if you have any networks you feel they would be relevant for and appropriate to share.

General Reminders

1. Mobile phones should be switched off when in school and should not be used at all. If any mobile phones are found in use or switched on in school, they will be removed from pupils (and locked in the safety deposit box) and pupils will receive an S3. Mobile phones can be turned on after the black gates on the way out of school and not before.
2. Uniform policy states that pupils are allowed to wear "a watch and stud earrings." This means that all bracelets, chains, hooped earrings and rings are not allowed in school. Members of staff will check this and remove these items from pupils and place in the safety deposit box at the front of school to be picked up at the end of the day. Pupils should leave these items at home.

Request for modelling material

Year 6 are developing prototype models of playgrounds in design technology. If you have any spare cereal boxes, please could you ask your child to bring them into school next week and deliver to Mr Freeman-Myers. These boxes are a fantastic modelling material - it is easier to cut with a craft knife than other corrugated board. All year 6 pupils will have the opportunity to take their model home after we exhibit their designs this year.

Online Safety Updates

Social Media Influencers

The things social media influencers do and say online can be quite impactful. Around a third of children and young people think that, because the influencer is a 'celebrity', what they share is always good. But we know that isn't the case, sometimes it can be advice based on pseudo-science, selling something because they've been paid to and much more.

Internet Matters have a great article where various specialists offer advice and guidance to parents/carers to help them to let their children think critically about social media influencers. You can find the article [HERE](#).

You can contact us at any time with any questions or concerns. Please flag all issues to Mr Stephenson, Miss Liddle or Mr Scott.

Reminders/ Key Dates

Date	Event	Who
Thursday 15 th February	Non-Uniform Day	All year groups
Thursday 15 th February	Co Crew Workshop	Year 5 (5EKI)
Thursday 15 th February	House Point Prize	House Winner

Thursday 15th February	Year 7 Parents' Evening (online)	Year 7
Thursday 15th February	School Closes at 3.20pm	All year groups
Friday 16th February	INSET Day	School closed
Monday 26th February	School re-opens for all pupils at 8.40am	All year groups
Monday 26th February – Friday 1st March	Aspire Week (Careers Education)	All year groups
Monday 26th February - Thursday 29 February	Bikeability week	Year 5 group
Tuesday 27th February - Wednesday 28th February	KS3 NCC Youth Election	Year 7 and 8
Monday 4th March – Wednesday 6th March	Ford Castle Residential	Year 5
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day	All year groups

Have a fantastic weekend everyone!

Mr Watters

Head of School

Pupil Support and Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mr Stephenson/ **Deputy Safeguarding Leaders:** Mr Scott and Miss Liddle

Heads of Key Stage: Mr Scott and Miss Liddle

SENDCo/Assistant SENDCo: Mr Morgan and Mrs Adams

Academic Support Coordinator: Mrs Toor

Pupil Support Workers: Mrs Dodds and Mrs Richards

Please remember that we are here to support you and your child at any time. You can contact us via the main office (phone) or by email (admin@hexhammiddle.org.uk).